

Lipman Rajcher

“Bnos Agudas Yisroel”

As representative of “Agudas Yisroel”, the “Bnos Agudas Yisroel” organisation was also established in Częstochowa, in the late 1920’s. Its members came from ultra-Orthodox and even secular families, [and] were all graduates of the religious school [for girls] “Beis Yaakov”.

The youngest class was called “Basia” [Daughter of God] and was directed by the younger members among the “girls”.

Most of the movement’s activities were conducted in the ideological-cultural arena: ideological and political speeches (on Judaism, the world and the Land of Israel) and in the educational arena: religion, tradition, library, belonging to the movement [and] active aid to “Beis Yaakov”.



A lesson at the “Bnos Agudas Yisroel” organisation

Communal activities were expressed in helping the city’s welfare organisations, continuous work for the “Yeshivas Chachmei Lublin” [Sages of Lublin Yeshiva] fund and “Keren HaYeshuv” [The Settlement Fund].

When the persecution of Jews began in Germany, a vigorous German goods boycott operation was carried out.

The branch was in contact with the Centre in Łódź, which published a periodical called “Beis Yaakov”, sent speakers, organised conferences and instructress’ courses, as

well as pioneering training for girls planning to emigrate to the Land of Israel (“Ohel Sara” [Tent of Sarah]).

Among the active instructresses were Tovah Gelibter, Hadasa Gold, Riwke Goldbaum and many others whose names I’ve forgotten.

(With the outbreak of the Second World War, a constant flow of refugees came to Częstochowa; the movement’s lodgings and the “Beis Yaakov” [school] were appropriated for the refugees. After some time, the existence of all organisations was prohibited, by decree of the Nazi invader, and all Jewish schools were closed down. The gathering of the “girls” at their parents’ houses was considered life-threatening, although aid was given, nevertheless, to refugee girls in private homes and also *Shabbes* meals were provided for religious refugees.

The days of the Holocaust put an end to the dear Jewish girls, who excelled so much in their modesty and their good traits of character. May God avenge their blood!)